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# 

And How It Was Wiped Out

By CLARISSA MACKIE 

The new house was finished. No detail had been omitted to make it homelike as well as beautiful and comfortable. Still it lacked something. Paul Main paced the terrace, smoking an after luncheon cigar, pondering why he was not happy and contented after all the expense and bother he had endured while building this handsome country home

Below Fairdale village lay steeped in the brilliant October sunshine. From his house on the hilltop the village looked like a collection of toy houses, quaintly picturesque, without one jarring note of ugly line or crude color-

Paul's eyes lingered on the village and then lifted slowly to the one blot on his landscape. Hidden from view of his own estate because of a projecting spur of the mountain, the railroad circled the hill and disappeared, a glimmer of shining tracks, through a ant among the ranges.

The railroad was innocent of offense an Paul's eyes, but on a strip of hilly land bordering the tracks, quite in plain view of Paul's windows, was an immense signboard bearing in six foot letters an advertisement of "Windmuller's Balsam For Coughs and That abomination of black and yellow paint was the blot on Paul Main's landscape and on his peace of

"If I had known that sign was to be put there I would never have built here. I'll see Coombs about it," he decided, and, whistling up his favorite his eyes and tramped down the avenue to the main road.

He found Lawyer Coombs in an unresponsive mood regarding the sign-

"I dare say; I dare say," replied Mr. Coombs after Paul had stated his case, "but as I understand the situation the owner of the property wishes to derive some income from the land. As you are aware, that hill runs sheerly to the tracks below, and it is useless for building purposes."

"But it is a blot on my view," persisted Paul impatiently. "I'm willing to buy the land if necessary to"-

"You couldn't buy the land, my dear sir. It is held in trust and cannot be but all the property was in trust, bedisposed of until a minor has reached cause I suppose he was certain she his majority, which will be in exactly eighteen years."

tory." threatened Paul ruefully as he been hard pressed for money to live left the lawyer's office.

He went down to the railroad and skirted the tracks, looking up at the can find some means of earning a livoffending signboard with speculative ing for herself. She talks of taking eyes. "I'd like to talk to the owner of boarders, because she has a well equipthat property," he pondered thought- ped house here in Fairdale."

Paul turned quickly. On the railroad crossing behind him a woman's form the contract with the balsam people they arrested Rosenberg and Horowitz, was bent in eyident perturbation. In- and have the board removed. She does stantly he surmised the cause of the not feel that she ought to impose upon trouble and was beside her in a few her neighbors in that way." wift strides.

"You have caught your heel?" he asked quickly. "Yes," she panted affrightedly, "and

a train is coming too. Oh, dear!" A shrill whistle echoed from the cut among the hills, sounding a warning to clear the track upon which the woman stood. Paul bent down, untied the ribbon bow and gently lifted the little allk stockinged foot from its prison.

"Run for your life," he commanded briefly, and she obeyed him. He vainly wrenched at the imprisoned little shoe, held by its absurdly high heel between the track and one of the crossing Paul. planks, but he could not budge it, so leaped aside in time to allow the train, think too much about yourself, Main." a long string of freight cars, to pass. The second car tossed the mangled lithis pocket.

When the last car had passed he crossed over to where the owner of the shoe was waiting to thank him. For the first time be really saw her-as a In Fairdale village, matter of fact, for the first time he really lived from that moment.

She was small and dainty, with a lovely, flower-like face, which retained ring at the doorbell brought him face its youthful beauty and charm in spite of the softly graying brown hair that fluffed under her black hat. She was gowned in white with touches of black, and Paul surmised that she was a widow from the wedding ring on one little white hand. I am afraid he would have been bitterly disappointed If he had found otherwise,

"How can I thank you?" she cried gratefully as he came toward her.

"By allowing me to assist you home," was Paul's gallant reply. "I am afraid you will have difficulty with only one shoe, but there was nothing to do but leave it there."

"Oh, I live quite near by, and I can take off the other shoe and get home nicely, thank you," she said pleasantly, adding with a little toss of color, "If you had not arrived-think of what would have happened to me!"

"Don't think of it. please," said Paul hastily. If you feel faint or ill per-Office: Second floor Masonic Build- haps I can find you a restorative of some sort. I believe there is a drug store down the road, but my own house is quite near." Involuntarily he glanced upward, and her eyes followed his to the beautiful home on the hillton.

"Never mind getting anything," she mid hastily. "I will thank you again and go." She held out a little white hand, and

for an instant it was inclosed in Paul's; then he lifted his hat and left her, Instead of going directly home he stopped in the drug store, and with his

mind still on the blot on his landscape he asked a question of the druggist.

"Who owns that piece of property on the other side of the track?"

"You mean the hill where the bill board stands?" "Yes."

"Mrs. Covington is the owner. Her husband died a couple of years ago and left all of his property to her in trust for a nephew who is only three years old at the present time. She has recently had the billboard erected there or at least the balsam people have leased the ground from her for the purpose

"Thank you," said Paul Main, and he went home.

He wrote a letter that evening to Mrs. Covington and explained to her what a blot that billboard was on his outlook, and as he understood the property was not for sale and that the contract could not be bought he added an appeal to her sense of the beautiful and her consideration for his feelings on observing the hideous sign from every point of view of his estate.

After he had scaled the letter and

ent it to the postoffice he felt better and went out to the terrace to smoke, and under the magic of the full moon he fell to dreaming of the lovely little woman he had saved from death that day, and his hand unconsciously strayed to the little slipper in his pocket.

The next evening he received a visit from Mr. Coombs, who looked very much displeased over something and if possible appeared paler and with white hair more upstanding than usual. Paul had him out on the terrace, where they paced to and fro as they talked.

"You've gone and done it now, Main," said the lawyer bitterly.

"Done what?" demanded Paul, mys-

"I knew you were a rich man, but I pointer, he pulled his cap down over never supposed you to be a screw. It never occurred to me that robbing the widow was in your line!"

"A screw? Robbing the widow-what widow? I don't know any widows. I keep away from 'em every time!" he protested.

"You write letters to them," said Coombs testily.

"Letters?" repeated Paul vaguely, and then suddenly a light broke over him. "Do you mean Mrs. Covington?" he asked lamely.

"Yes. Man, do you know that it nearly broke that woman's heart to have that signboard put up there, but she did it to keep body and soul together. Covington died and left her pretty well off, would marry again some day. A few months ago she lost some securities "Perhaps I'll buy the balsam fac- through a robbery in her house and has upon. The signboard business is merely a sop to the hungry wolf until she

"She has been to you?" Paul found "Oh, dear!" cried a sweet voice in dis- voice to ask out of his depth of self condemnation.

"What can be done to make things right?" asked Paul sharply.

"I don't know, if anything, now, only you might go around and tell her as delicately as possible that you think a strapping six footer of a man who doesn't have to worry about the butcher or baker can stand it to gaze upon a black and yellow billboard better than a frail woman can give up the income derived from said advertisement. She is a proud woman, too,

"You needn't make me feel like any less than thirty cents," complained

"You ought to be made to feel-you

"You're right," admitted Paul, "and now that you've ripped me to pieces tle shoe at his feet, and he placed it in let's have a little friendly talk about what I can do to make myself most useful and inoffensive in Fairdale."

The next day found Paul Main seeking the home of Mrs. Amy Covington

The Covington place was a pleasant, old fashloned white house set in the midst of comfortable grounds. Paul's to face with the blue eyed woman he had rescued two days before.

"Mrs. Covington?" she repeated, smiling, though he was sure she had been weeping. "I am Mrs. Covington. Won't you come in?"

Afterward, when he told Mr. Coombs about the interview, he added the story of the pretty shoe he had retained.
"Coombs," he said thoughtfully, "I

persuaded Mrs. Covington to leave the billboard there as a reminder to me that I am a selfish sort of beast. Now I shall spend the rest of the year in persuading her that because I saved her life she should intrust that preclous life to me for better or worse. If I can win her for my wife the whole landscape can be dotted with billboards advertising Windmuller's

balsam and I shall not care!" "You have it bad, my dear Main," grinned Mr. Coombs, rubbing his hands delightedly. "As I understand it, there will be no blot upon your landscape if you can persuade Amy Covington to

marry you." "As I understand it," amended Paul Main, "the only blot on the landscape then will be where she is not!"

### CREELMAN ON STAND.

Civil Service Commissioner Calls Buckner "Petty, Lying Lawyer." à mannament



@ 1912, by American Press Association.

The session of the New York aldermanic committee which is probing police graft almost ended in a free-for-all fight when James Creelman, president of the civil service commission, called Attorney Buckner, counsel for the committee, "a petty, lying lawyer." Following this characterization of Mr. Buckner, Creelman turned to the committee and denounced it as a "clique of designing Republican politi-cians." In the uproar that followed Alferman Downing and Creelman shook their fists at one another and called each other liars until they were hourse.

#### MAY BE NEW BECKER STAY.

McIntyre Hears From Host of New Witnesses Favorable to Client,

New York, Sept. 25. - Lieutenant Becker's counsel, John F. McIntyre, indicated that he may after all seek for further delay in the trial of his client. Mr. McIntyre said that if District Attorney Whitman is able to prevent the appearance of new witnesses favorable o Becker before the commission in Hot Springs he will ask the supreme court for a new commission and for a fur-

From John W, Hart Mr. McIntyre received this telegram: "I have discovered three new witnesses and am well pleased with the situation."

In another telegram Mr. Hart informed Mr. McIntyre that Schepps had told James L. Graham, an attorney of Hot Springs, that he had fled from New York on the advice of James M. Sullivan, counsel for Jack Rose. Mr. McIntyre said he would investigate why Lawyer Sullivan advised Schepps to get out of town.

"Despite what the district attorney says, things are progressing very nicely in Hot Springs," Mr. McIntyre added. 'We will obtain testimony there that will certainly cause the acquittal of Lieutenant Becker."

The secret John Doe inquiry before Justice Goff, to determine whether the "Yes. She has ordered me to break police suppressed evidence at the time was not continued. It was understood at the criminal courts building that Acting District Attorney Moss has failed to make a case against the police.

#### T. R. INVADES SOUTH.

Progressives Think He Has Chance to Carry Missouri.

Joplin, Mo., Sept. 22.-When Colonel Roosevelt left Joplin last night after a spectacular reception in this town and a hearty greeting from the people gathered along the Frisco railroad in southwestern Missouri he began the most fifficult task he has vet undertaken. that of breaking into the solid Demoeratic south.

The colonel enjoys the prestige of having pried Missouri from the Democracy, and the Progressives in this state believe he has a chance of securing its electoral vote again. But there are other southern states the colonel will invade, beginning with Oklahoma, Iowa and Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina in the order named.

#### RUSSIAN-ENGLISH PARLEY.

Czar's Representative and Lord Grey See King George.

Aberdeen, Sept. 24.—Despite angry protests from the anti-Russian press Foreign Ministers Sazanoff of Russia and Sir Edward Grey of England and the Russian ambassador, Count Benckendorff, conferred with King George at Balmoral.

There is widespread suspicion that an agreement will be reached calculated ultimately to involve England in

#### TALE OF THE WEATHER.

Observations of the United States weather bureau taken at 8 p. m. yesterday follow;

	Гетр.	Weathe
Albany	60	Cloud
Atlantic City	66	Cloud
Boston	60	Cloud
Buffalo	58	Rain
Chicago	66	Clear
New Orleans	78	Clear
New York	61	Cloud
St. Louis	68	Clenr
Washington	-66	Rain

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9.12 6.30	. Scranton (D&H)	
P. M. [P. M.   P.M.   P. M.   A.M.	Arrive Leave	LA.M. LAME M. P.M. LA.M.
	SCRANTON BRANCH.	
West Bound		East Bound

7 43 . . . . . 3.24 . . . . 10.0 7.38 10.54 3.16 6.54 9.4 . Hoadleys. . 7.17 10.33 2.56 6.31 7.07 10.23 2.46 6.21 Clemo.... Gravity. 7.00 10.16 2.39 6.14 6.46 10.02 2.21 6.01 6.39 9.55 2.15 5.54 Lake Ariel. Maplewood Saco Wimmers. .

P. M. I A. N. IP. M. I P. M. I A. M. I A. M. I Arrive Leave | A.M. | A. M. | P.M. | P.M. | A.M.

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